Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

Met Office report demonstrates it 'does more than forecast tomorrow's weather'

23 July 2001

A report published today demonstrates that the Met Office does much more than just forecast tomorrow's weather. It highlights that the Met Office played a crucial role in the management of two of the most notable events during the past 12 months: the foot-and-mouth outbreak and the Autumn floods.

The Annual Report and Accounts 2000/1 explains how the heavy rain leading to the floods was well-forecast and that work to predict the airborne dispersion of the foot-and-mouth virus helped keep its spread under control.

Peter Ewins, Met Office Chief Executive explained: "The events and activities highlighted in our Annual Report and Accounts illustrate the breadth of our operation, which go far beyond forecasting tomorrow's weather. They show the positive impact we can have on peoples lives, and on businesses across the economy and on society at large."

Last year, the Met Office repositioned itself to focus on more than 'just the weather'. Building on its unrivalled know-how and its international reputation for being second to none in forecast accuracy it increasingly looks at the impacts of the weather and the natural environment and provides a growing range of services in environmental sciences, including hydrology, oceanography and climatology.

Over the past year, the Met Office has invested some £13 million in new internet services - the award-winning 'Time and Place' mobile internet forecasting service - new weather satellites and its planned relocation to Exeter. The new building will be an exciting place to work in, will encourage innovation, and will enable the Met Office to offer better value to its customers and to the taxpayer.

Other highlights outlined in the Met Office Annual Report and Accounts 2000/1 include:

- news that an independent formal review into the Met Office's climate change work concluded that its Hadley Centre "….is the number one climate modelling centre worldwide";
- the opening of a Joint Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Research;
- new agreements signed with Météo France and Met Éireann, the French and Irish national meteorological services.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site
News
News release archive
Media Centre
Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf
Services

Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster
Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information
Contact
Contact us
Questions answered

© Crown copyright